

*News from the*

**U.S. Senate Committee on  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions**

**Michael B. Enzi (Wyoming), Chairman**



**For Immediate Release  
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## **Enzi, Kennedy Introduce Relief Bill, S. 1715, to Speed Recovery of Schools, Students Hard Hit by Katrina**

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Washington, D.C. - U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi (R- WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee) issued the following statement on new emergency relief legislation, S.1715, he introduced with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, (D-MA) Ranking Member, as part of a broad legislative package to aid the recovery of the nation's Gulf Coast:

“Tonight, Senator Kennedy and I introduced legislation that provides immediate relief for students, schools, and institutions of higher education affected by Hurricane Katrina. This is a first step in providing the necessary assistance towards getting families and communities back to school and back on their feet,” Enzi said.

“This legislation provides relief for children who are displaced from their schools, parents who are in need of childcare services so they can find employment, and college students who are struggling to make ends meet and continue their education.”

The bill’s title is the “Hurricane Katrina Education Relief Act.” It authorizes funds and provides waiver authority for the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Services, and also includes provisions that:

- Provide additional funds to school districts in the hardest hit areas, as well as school districts that

are receiving students displaced by Hurricane Katrina, to enable them to serve affected communities;

- Authorize immediate aid to restart schools in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama;
- Provide teacher licensure reciprocity for teachers and to permit the Secretary of Education to waive highly qualified teacher requirements in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama for one year;
- Relieve recipients of federal student aid grants who were enrolled in affected institutions from being required to repay their grants;
- Permit borrowers who live and work in affected areas to receive forbearance on loans without documentation;
- Provide emergency assistance to individuals with disabilities to ensure they continue to receive free appropriate public education and job training, and to fund the replacement of damaged or lost assistive technology devices;
- Provide child care services to displaced families and provides additional resources for training child care providers to address the needs of displaced children;
- Waive the income and documentation requirements for children affected by Hurricane to participate in Head Start and early Head Start programs.

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